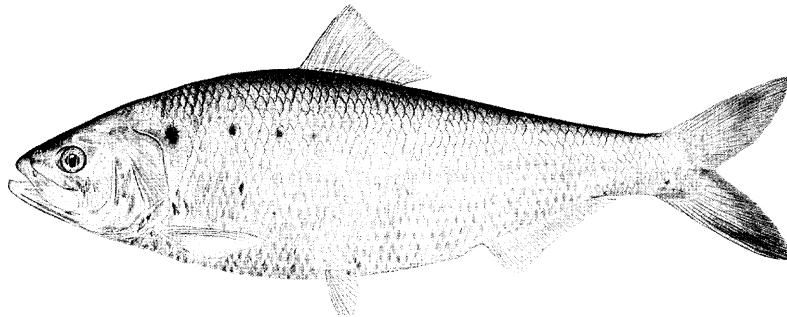


SELECTED SPECIES ID'S: shad

58

The following selected species identification section contains descriptions of some of the more commonly misidentified Atlantic species. It should be used as a supplement to the field guides distributed in training.

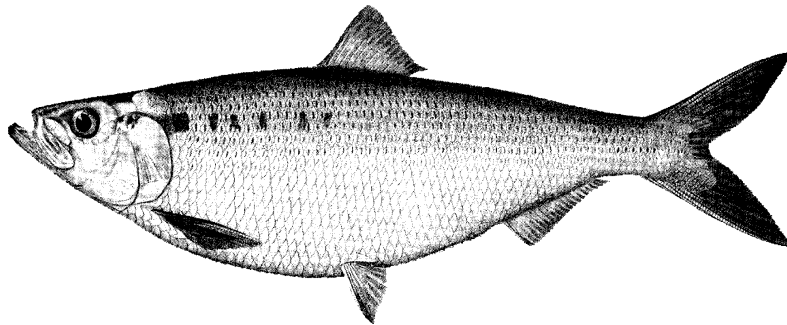


AMERICAN SHAD *Alosa sapidissima*

Key characteristics

- tip of the lower jaw is entirely enclosed within the tip of the upper mouth when closed
- longer mouth than hickory shad
- upper jaw reaches below the rear edge of the eye
- spots are circular shaped

VS.



HICKORY SHAD *Alosa mediocris*

Key characteristics

- tip of the lower jaw projects beyond the upper jaw when mouth is closed
- shorter mouth than American shad
- upper jaw reaches the middle of the eye
- spots are oval shaped

Figure 42. American shad (top) and hickory shad (bottom). Source: *Fishes of Chesapeake Bay* by E. O. Murdy et al., published by Smithsonian Institution Press.